

What is Claimed:

1. A towing member for hand towing a piece of baggage, the towing member comprising:

an arm portion configured and adapted to be secured to a piece of baggage;

5 a towing handle; and

a pivot mechanism connecting the towing handle to the arm portion in a manner that allows the towing handle to move relative to the arm portion.

2. The towing member of claim 1, wherein:

the arm portion is configured and adapted to be permanently secured to a piece of baggage.

3. The towing member of claim 1, wherein:

the arm portion is movable between extended and retracted positions when the arm portion is attached to a piece of baggage such that the towing handle is closer to  
5 the piece of baggage when the arm is in the retracted position than when the arm is in the extended position.

4. The towing member of claim 3, wherein:

the arm portion consists essentially of one single-pole extendable member.

5. The towing member of claim 4, wherein:

the towing handle is generally T-shaped.

6. The towing member of claim 4, wherein:

the single-pole extendable member has a center-axis that extends along a length of the single-pole extendable

member and the pivot mechanism enables the towing handle  
5 to pivot about the center-axis.

7. The towing member of claim 6, wherein:  
the pivot mechanism allows rotation of the towing  
handle about the center-axis of the single-pole  
extendable member.

8. The towing member of claim 6, wherein:  
the pivot mechanism allows the towing handle to  
rotate at least 360° about the center axis of the single-  
pole extendable member.

9. The towing member of claim 4, wherein:  
the single-pole extendable member is comprised of at  
least two telescoping sections that are slidably attached  
to each other for relative telescoping movement, the  
5 relative telescoping movement allowing the arm portion to  
be movable between the extended and the retracted  
positions.

10. The towing member of claim 8, wherein:  
the pivot mechanism has a passage therethrough that  
permits operative connection between a release mechanism  
positioned on the towing handle and a locking mechanism  
5 on the arm portion.

11. The towing member of claim 1, wherein:

the arm portion has a length with opposite proximal and distal ends, the proximal end is adapted to be secured to a piece of baggage and the distal end is connected to the towing handle by the pivot mechanism, and the pivot mechanism includes a pivot pin that connects the towing handle to the distal end of the arm portion for pivoting movement of the towing handle about the pivot pin and relative to the arm portion.

12. The towing member of claim 11, wherein:

the pivot pin is contained entirely inside the arm portion and the towing handle.

13. The towing member of claim 11, wherein:

the pivot pin has a center bore passing through the pin.

14. The towing member of claim 11, wherein:

the pivot pin cantilevers from the arm portion distal end.

15. The towing member of claim 11, wherein:

the arm distal end has an arm flat surface and the towing handle has a handle flat surface, the arm flat surface engages flush against the handle flat surface and  
5 the pivot pin passes through and connects both the arm flat surface and the handle flat surface for sliding, rotating movement against each other.

16. The towing member of claim 11, wherein:

the towing handle is T-shaped and has an elongated hand grip with opposite ends and a stem that intersects

and projects from the hand grip intermediate the hand  
5 grip opposite ends, and the pivot pin passes through the  
stem.

17. The towing member of claim 11, wherein:

the arm portion is tubular and has a hollow interior  
and the pivot pin has a center bore that passes through  
the pin and communicates with the hollow interior of the  
5 arm portion.

18. A hand towed piece of baggage comprising:

a piece of baggage;

a set of wheels on the piece of baggage, the set of  
wheels having an axis of rotation;

5 an arm portion having a length with opposite  
proximal and distal ends, the proximal end being  
operatively secured to the piece of baggage,

a pivot mechanism connected to the distal end of the  
arm portion; and

10 a towing handle connected to the pivot mechanism for  
relative movement between the towing handle and the arm  
portion.

19. The piece of baggage of claim 18, wherein:

the pivot mechanism has a pivot axis and connects  
the towing handle to the arm portion for pivoting  
movement of the towing handle about the pivot axis, and  
5 the pivot axis is perpendicular to the axis of rotation  
of the set of wheels.

20. The piece of baggage of claim 18, wherein:

the arm portion consists essentially of a single  
pole.

21. The piece of baggage of claim 18, wherein:  
the arm portion has a center axis that extends the  
length of the arm portion and the pivot mechanism has a  
pivot axis and connects the towing handle to the arm  
5 portion for pivoting movement of the towing handle about  
the pivot axis, and the pivot axis is coaxial with the  
center axis of the arm portion at the distal end of the  
arm portion.

22. The piece of baggage of claim 18, wherein:  
the pivot mechanism has a pivot axis and connects  
the towing handle to the arm portion for rotation of the  
towing handle about the pivot axis.

23. The piece of baggage of claim 18, wherein:  
the pivot mechanism includes a pivot pin that  
connects the towing handle to the distal end of the arm  
portion for pivoting movement of the towing handle about  
5 the pivot pin.

24. The piece of baggage of claim 23, wherein:  
the pivot pin has a center bore passing through the  
pin.

25. The piece of baggage of claim 24, wherein:  
the arm portion is tubular and has a hollow interior  
and the pivot pin center bore communicates with the  
hollow interior of the arm portion.

26. The piece of baggage of claim 23, wherein:  
the pivot pin is contained entirely inside the  
arm portion and the towing handle.

27. The piece of baggage of claim 23, wherein:  
the pivot pin cantilevers from the arm portion  
distal end.

28. The piece of baggage of claim 23, wherein:  
the arm distal end has an arm flat surface and  
the towing handle has a handle flat surface, the arm flat  
surface engages flush against the handle flat surface and  
5 the pivot pin passes through and connects both the arm  
flat surface and the handle flat surface for sliding,  
rotating movement against each other.

29. The piece of baggage of claim 23, wherein:  
the towing handle is T-shaped and has an elongated  
hand grip with opposite ends and a stem that intersects  
and projects from the hand grip intermediate the hand  
5 grip opposite ends, and the pivot pin passes through the  
stem.